




Nihilism of the Youth

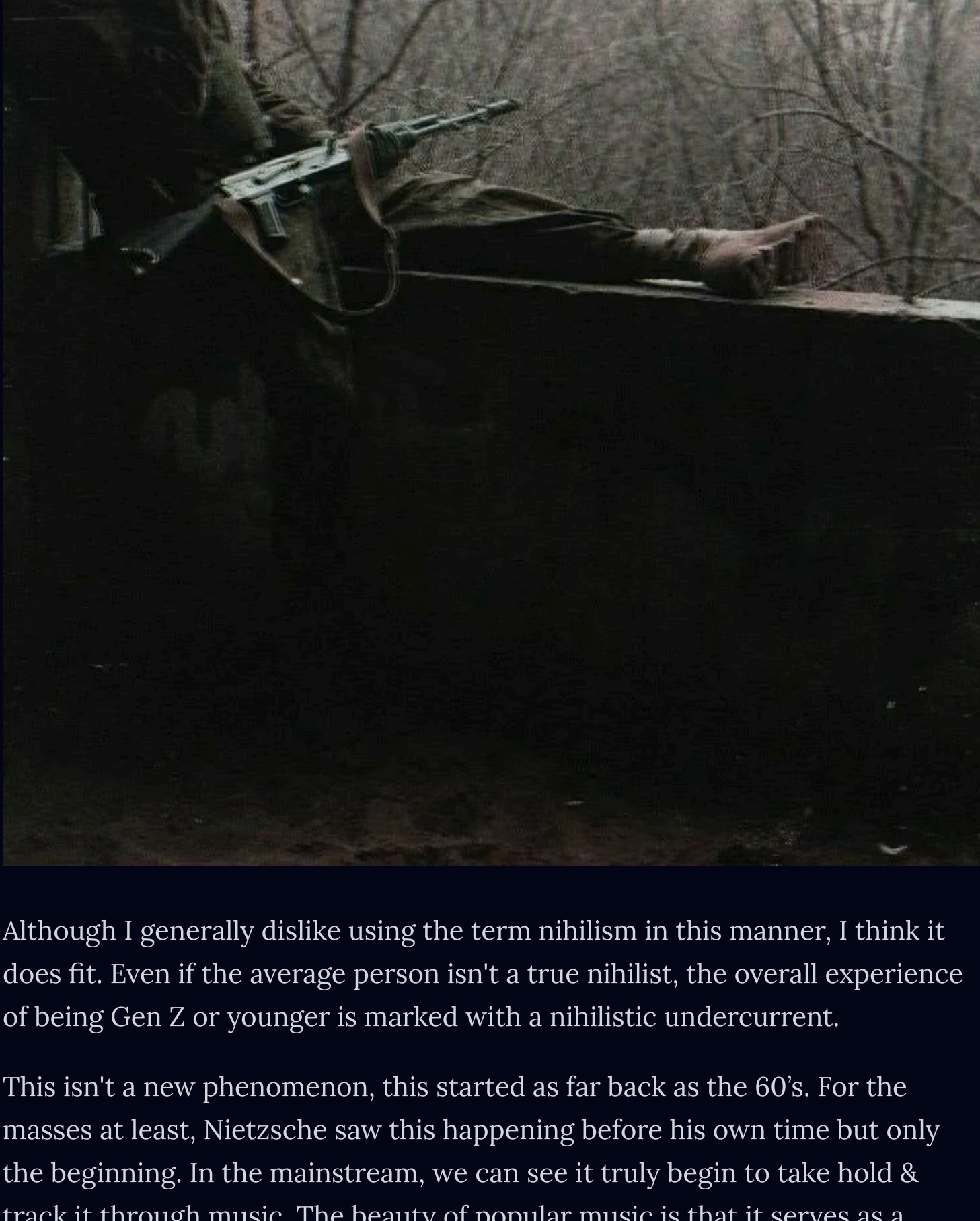
DER EINZIGE
DEC 22, 2024

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Although I generally dislike using the term nihilism in this manner, I think it does fit. Even if the average person isn't a true nihilist, the overall experience of being Gen Z or younger is marked with a nihilistic undercurrent.

This isn't a new phenomenon, this started as far back as the 60's. For the masses at least, Nietzsche saw this happening before his own time but only the beginning. In the mainstream, we can see it truly begin to take hold & track it through music. The beauty of popular music is that it serves as a representation of what its listeners felt like in the moment. A window into the raw emotions of a past zeitgeist.

The hippie music scene of the 60's was the first break from the normal culture of the West, it was extremely liberal in all aspects. Although we certainly remember a few big names like John Lennon, it was always more about the music & community than the artists. I'd argue the hippies were the apex of Western Liberalism, the hard line in the sand before drifting into Marxism & other Leftist ideologies. For our purposes, the most important aspect of this zeitgeist was its anti-institutionalism & that 'Bohemian' spirit. As well, it's cries for freedom & break from the status quo.

The next important zeitgeist was the Rockstar era, which was effectively the opposite of the hippies. If the hippies' counter culture could be equated to the French Revolution, the big name rockstars were Napoleon. In stark contrast, the rockstars were all about themselves. They eventually disregarded all notions of morality in favor of glamorous individualism. The focus of these bands were the bands themselves, the music & communities around them just served to further this goal. It mirrors political leaders like Napoleon, Mussolini, or Caesar. In the words of David Bowie, "Hitler was one of the first rockstars"

The cult of personality of these rockstars was strong, and it should be no surprise that defining element of their music was energy (especially for its time.) This would increase with the development of metal & original punk. To use political terms, they were populist in every aspect. The loud, controversial & abrasive music they made is an excellent symbol for the individuals who created it & the energy they represented.

This trend eventually ended as things shifted towards post-punk & grunge, the most notable individual being Kurt Cobain. The over the top antics of people like Ozzy or McJagger turned into a fairly normal, if gloomy, man from the suburbs. The defining characteristic of bands like Nirvana, or even their contemporaries like Blink-182 & Green Day, was a sense of boredom. It may oftentimes come off as the sort of boredom a teen feels sitting in class, but it was more widespread social critique in reality. This was a time of depression, angst, & eventually another era of high energy. This was the time of nu-metal & other heavier genres that took over around Woodstock '99.

This high energy was transferred into the pop music sphere during the late '00s & early 10's. I'm sure most of my readers will remember the big songs of this era, as well as names like Katy Perry or One Direction. This era hit its high water mark around 2015, gradually becoming much more mellow. As the artists did this, new artists would also come up with a depressive streak. Lil Peep, Juice WRLD, and other mellow artists that made low energy music for middle to late Gen Z. These music trends generally follow the sociopolitical trends across society, and they matched the increases in depression & anxiety among the youth over the past decade.

From 2020 onwards, popular music has basically fractured into everyone having dedicated subcultures & old music being revived. It's yet to be seen what the next trend will be, either in music or the general zeitgeist. Time will tell.

Regardless, the last 60 or so years has been a continuous cycle of the youth revolting against the status quo, for better or for worse. Even the happy times were glorifying a carefree "YOLO" lifestyle, such as the years following the 2008 recession. This isn't actually a surprise, the desire for space, freedom, etc. among the youth is seen in virtually every mammalian species & has been written about by many. Nietzsche uses it as an example when explaining his Will to Power. It is also the very reason Koryos style organizations were so common throughout ancient cultures.

What's notable about today is that there's no where to escape. I'm far from the first to make the statement that modern society is essentially a zoo, and that humans are suffering the same illnesses as tigers & such do in confinement. There's also now little way to escape it, even in escapist fantasy worlds as they are also infected by creatures of lower being who spread their defensive moralism. What many of these creatures don't understand, or would like to ignore, is that these feelings are not artificial or a social construct. Depending on your philosophical beliefs, they are anything from innate biological drives to the very fabric of reality. Many generations acknowledged this. The saying "boys will be boys," before being demonized by certain feminists, simply acknowledged that it was inevitable for young men to end up fighting, getting hurt climbing a tree, or other things.

The modern world was created by the weak. It wasn't crafted by machiavellian super villains, it was created by the dorks who would otherwise be shoved in lockers, as well as the women who never got offered a ring. This is why it is marked by monotony, safety, & equality. If a child takes issue with sitting in a room for 8 a day, the solution is to give them mind numbing drugs. The same solution is given if that child is 25 working in an office. It's medically unsound, but worst of all it's boring.

Old middle management types hate teen romance. It's hard to describe but if you've encountered it you know what I mean. They are incapable of actually understanding love or romance, generally speaking of relationships in terms of a business arrangement, and thus the prospect of two young people giving everything to each other is a nightmare to them. They chalk it up to hormones & say you should instead be focused on school work or something else materially "useful." This is a microcosm of these managerial types' views on everything that the youth, especially those with high energy, values or takes part in. It can be seen in anything from politics to lifestyle to music taste.

This is all probably shared between virtually every generation in history. What makes this generation unique is the amount of uncertainty in the future. It's far different, and worse, than the fear of nuclear war that pervaded the Cold War generations had. By virtually every metric, the youth of today have no future. Economy is bad, environment is damaged, demographic changes are increasing, there's a wider gap between government & citizen, I could go on but you get the idea & have read all of this somewhere else.

The Marxists' call this late stage capitalism, the endgame of the capitalist system where nothing is valued except capital & the stresses of the system become too great to ignore. They like to imagine that this is the point where people will finally enter the class war & begin the steady shift into socialism. This is yet to materialize outside of lefty subreddits & twitter circles. Rather than be galvanized into a revolutionary collective, the youth of today are overwhelmingly apathetic to the state of the world. The average person is starkly individualistic, and this is not a moral failure. It's the only logical position to hold in a world that's rife with confusion & has the cards stacked against you.

The issue isn't that the youth simply don't believe in anything, they generally do want to. This is why radical positions are increasingly prevalent, best seen in the high approval rate of Luigi's assassination of the UH CEO. The issue is that they do not have someone to latch onto. Even people like Trump, who are energetic, are not quite enough. This is to say that when someone energetic does come along, you may see a similar effect that Trump had on the political landscape, except even more pronounced. The nihilism of today's youth, again, is nothing new. Many would argue it's a precondition for radical sociopolitical change. Similar sentiments were described in the times proceeding the Bolshevik revolution, Weimar Germany, the Spanish Civil War, etc. A vague sense of angst & nihilism turned towards radical or revolutionary movements.

To be clear, this doesn't actually mean that the youth are on our side. Many of these eras are not marked by a united front, rather by vicious sectarian violence. A recent example can be seen in the Italian Years of Lead, as well as Weimar Germany at its most violent & the French or Russian Civil Wars. Radicalism isn't an ideology, just an attitude. What this brings us, rather than some idealistic wave of rebellion, is anarchy. It is the collapse of the established order which makes fertile grounds for a new one.

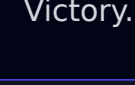
"The revolution made Napoleon possible: that is its justification. For the sake of a similar prize one would have to desire the anarchical collapse of our entire civilization."

—Friedrich Nietzsche

The angst of the youth is inevitable. It can only be medicated away for so long. It's entirely unpredictable what this will materialize as, especially with sheer population volume of the modern West. But it's probably for the best. There's good reason to say "anything is better than this." Even a harder Left government, like Bernie Sanders, would at least be a slight improvement. If current trends in Europe continue, we're looking at a very "Far-Right" EU by 2030 as parties like AfD, RN & FPÖ gradually rise in popularity & enthusiasm. I wouldn't say these parties are solutions to our problems by any means, but it's a much better baseline to work with compared to the historically dominant centrist & moderate Left parties. The US is a different story, it's functionally impossible for any significant change to happen in a two party system. The ethnic problem is also far greater in the US than any EU country. There are very few positive outcomes available to the US that doesn't involve widespread violence, which I've written about before & will probably touch on again soon.

See: [The Collapse & Post-America](#)

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 iButm · Dec 23

I think Nihilistic Doom Spending is taking place by both the Youth and the Government. Both go hand in hand.

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 Will Martin · Dec 22


If this was the case, then why haven't they all been shot yet? There was no shoving into lockers, there was only jocks and Fujoshi hooking up while those of us Nerds warned you about the Jews.

If the modern world was made by the weak, why are the strong men not killing everyone alive?

 Ashes and Echoes.

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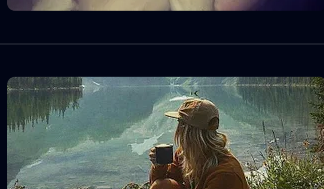
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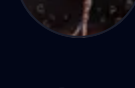
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